Mary Cassatt

“After the Bath”

Submitted by Nancy Cerny, 2011

Intro: First American woman to become a famous painter in Europe

Bio:
Born in the United States 160 years ago in Pa. near Pittsburgh
Had 3 brothers and 1 sister
Her family felt that travel was important to education.
Spent 5 years in Europe visiting London, Paris and other cities
Received her first music and painting lessons there
Started college in Pa. but decided to study painting in Paris
Girls weren’t allowed to study at the famous art school so her parents hired private teachers
She earned money to pay for school by copying famous museum paintings to sell

Style of painting:
After some of paintings were accepted by the Paris Salon she was invited to join the Impressionists
Review Impressionism
Used bright beautiful colors
Painted people as they really looked, doing everyday things
Especially liked painting families and children—used her own family as models
She experimented with pastels, mixing them with oil and even steam trying to make chalky colors seem as bright as possible

After the Bath
Why do you think she gave this name to the painting?
What impression do you feel about the family—happy, sad, etc
Do they seem to care about each other? How do you know?
Talk about the use of color and pastels

Activity:
Draw a portrait of yourself and your mom (or other important person)
Use oil pastels, colored pencils
I will frame them after they are done.
Put supplies on each table

Follow-up activity
Coloring book page to color at a later date